Committees, either *suo-moto* or on receipt of complaints, examine cases of violation of the Codes.

Concerns regarding content telecast on FTV were taken up with FTV in February-March 2001. FTV agreed to modify its programming to mitigate those concerns. In February 2002 the issue of broadcasting of Rio Carnival 2002 was taken up with FTV, who conveyed their apologies for telecasting the programme and immediately removed it from their programme list.

Dues of Prasar Bharati

†2560. PROF. RAM DEO BHANDARY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that the liability of Prasar Bharati is considerably high;

(b) if so, the up-to-date details of the liability payable to different State Governments; and

(c) by when Government are likely to clear the liability?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Introduction of Metro Channel

2561. SHRI DARA SINGH CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have not introduced Metro Channel in all the States, particularly in UP and Uttaranchal and if so; how many States are covered by this Channel;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Metro Channel is not available in villages of UP and Government have provided only one National Channel in Uttaranchal;

(c) if so, by when Government would provide this Channel in Uttaranchal; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) to (d) In satellite mode, programmes of Metro channel are available throughout the country including Uttar Pradesh and Uttaranchal and can be received anywhere with the help of appropriate dish antenna system or through cable network. All the States and Union Territories of the country have at least one terrestrial transmitter for DD2 service, with the exception of U.Ts of Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu. In the States of Uttar Pradesh and Uttaranchal, Metro channel coverage is presently available through 19 transmitters in Uttar Pradesh and 2 in Uttaranchal. For further expansion of Metro channel coverage, 33 transmitter projects, including one in Uttar Pradesh, are presently under implementation.

Objectionable advertisements by satellite channels

2562. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that his Ministry has issued a notice in the month of February, 2003 to all the satellite channels to block objectionable advertisements;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of satellite channels on which these notices were slapped?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) to (c) In the month of February, 2003, show cause notices were issued to seven channels for telecasting objectionable advertisements.

Rate of entertainment tax for cinema halls

2563. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA:
DR. ABRAR AHMED:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a uniform rate of entertainment tax for cinema halls throughout the country; and